GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4507
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
INCREASED POPULATION OF LEOPARD
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a quantitative jump in the leopard population from 1324 to 1961 during recent years particularly in Uttranchal;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to adopt some population control measures to check the increasing number of leopard keeping in view enormous depletion of forest cover and disappearance of herbivorous;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c) &(d) Yes, Sir. The forest area in Uttranchal is quite substantial. If the forests are appropriately managed and the herbivore population adequately protected, the number of panthers are not beyond the carrying capacity of the ecosystem. The efforts of the Government focuses more on addressing the issue of degradation of forests and depletion of prey base rather than controlling the population of panthers. According to Section 11 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, identified man-eaters can be killed with the permission of the Chief Wild Life Warden of the State.